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As an appellate practitioner for most of my career, and as a current circuit court staff attorney, I have considerable experience raising and addressing issues in post-conviction proceedings. Though I wholly advocate a defendant's right to present meritorious issues in motions for post-conviction relief, I do not agree with, nor do I see any logic in, recent Court of Appeals orders holding that the page limitation of MCR 2.119(A)(2) is not applicable to motions filed under MCR 6.500 et seq. by operation of MCR 6.001(D), and that there is no page limit on such motions and supporting briefs. Consequently, I wish to express my strong support for the proposed changes to MCR 6.502(C) and 6.506(A) imposing a 25-page limit to 6500 motions and responses, though from experience I believe a 20-page limitation is reasonable. As noted in the proposed rule, a party can always move for leave to submit an expanded brief if necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Pamela A. Hamway